

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

**A METHOD FOR PROTECTING AT LEAST ONE BASEBALL AREA OF A
BASEBALL PLAYING FIELD-PROTECTION SYSTEM AND METHOD**

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] In the past, waterproof tarps have been laid over these areas, or in some cases, over the entire infield or entire field itself. Rain is usually accompanied by wind. Oftentimes, the wind caused the tarps to be blown off the areas they were intended to cover, which exposed the dirt areas underneath. In the past, there were generally two methods to keep the baseball tarps in place during such conditions. One method was to place heavy objects, such as sandbags, rocks, or bricks on the tarps. Another method was to drive stakes through the tarp or through grommet holes provided in the tarp and into the ground. Both of these methods are slow and cumbersome ways to install and return a baseball tarp over an area to be covered. These methods also were somewhat time consuming in that it took several people to first lay the tarp and then hold it down while the weights or stakes were put in place. Then, more time was required to place the weights or to drive the stakes into the ground.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] In still another aspect, this invention comprises a baseball field protection system comprising a baseball tarp comprising a flexible material having a perimeter that defines a predetermined configuration and a weight associated with the flexible material for retaining the flexible material in a desired position after the cover has been situated on a baseball playing area, a roll for storing the baseball tarp, each of the ends comprising a roll, comprising means for lifting the roll and moving the roll on the ground.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] In yet another aspect, this invention comprises a method for protecting at least one baseball area of a baseball ~~laying~~ playing field, the method comprising the steps of providing a baseball tarp comprising a flexible material having a perimeter that defines a predetermined configuration and a weight associated with the flexible material for retaining the flexible material in a desired position after the flexible material has been situated on a baseball playing area, providing a roll for storing the baseball tarp, each end of the roll comprising a coupler, and providing a projection at each of the ends of the roll to permit the roll to be lifted and carried towards and away from the at least one baseball area and also for facilitating the baseball tarp to be unrolled from the roll in order to cover the at least one baseball area.

After paragraph [0017] please insert the following new paragraph:

In still another aspect, this invention comprises a method for protecting at least one baseball area of a baseball playing field comprising the steps of: preparing or assembling a weighted baseball area cover from a flexible material and at least one weight for retaining the flexible material in a desired position after the flexible material has been situated over the at least one baseball area of the baseball playing field, the at least one weight facilitating retaining the weighted baseball area cover over the at least one baseball area in order to protect the at least one baseball area from at least one of wind, rain or debris, enabling a user to substantially simultaneously store the flexible material and the at least one weight at a storage area away from the at least one baseball area, enabling the user to substantially simultaneously hand deliver the flexible material and the at least one weight to the at least one baseball area, sewing or adapting the flexible material to provide a weight-receiving area in at least a portion of a perimeter of the weighted baseball area cover, causing the at least one weight to be

situated in the weight-receiving area, and causing the at least one weight to be retained in the weight-receiving area.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view showing an L-shaped I bolt and a tool for lifting ~~an~~ and moving the roll shown in Fig. 5;

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] Fig. 8 is a fragmentary view illustrating another embodiment showing a tool for lifting and moving the roll;

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] Fig. 10 shows an exploded view and approach for aligning and coupling two elongated sections to provide the roll shown in Fig. 5;

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] Referring back to Fig. 2, notice that the flexible material 32 comprises a perimeter 36 that defines a predetermined shape, such as a hexagonal shape as shown in Fig. 2. It should be understood, however, that the predetermined configuration or shape may comprise any desirable shape, such as the illustrative shapes shown in Figs. 4A-4L. It has been found that multi-sided or polygonal shapes, such as the shapes shown in Figs. 4A – 4K are easiest to construct because they may be formed from strips or sections, such as sections 32a, 32b and 32c (Fig. 2), of flexible material 32 as described later herein. As illustrated in Figs. 4A - 4E and 4K, the shapes may be equilateral, such as the equilateral hexagon in Fig. 4A, pentagon in Fig. 4B, or octagon in Fig. 4D. Alternatively, the predetermined configuration may be of a nonequilateral polygonal or multi-sided shape, such as those illustrated in Figs. 4F-4I. The

predetermined configuration may define a rectangle (Fig. ~~4K~~ 4J), square (Fig. ~~4J~~ 4K) or circle (Fig. ~~4K~~ 4L). The predetermined configuration may be selected in response to the shape of the area to be protected by the cover 30. A dimension for a typical cover may be 18 feet average diameter for a pitcher's mound cover and 26 feet average diameter for a home base cover

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] As illustrated in Fig. 3B, the material 32 comprises an end 32d that is folded over itself to provide a hem 37 as illustrated. The end ~~32a~~ 32d of material 32 is secured at the area A (Fig. 3B) by sewn thread 41 or alternatively by a heat seal or weld which permanently secures and integrally forms the end ~~32a~~ 32d to the surface ~~32b~~ of the material 30, thereby defining the hem 37 that integrally retains weight 40. As illustrated in Fig. 2, the hem 37 may extend around the entire perimeter 36 of the cover 30. Alternatively and as illustrated in Figs. 15-18, the weight-receiving area 38 and weight 40 may be provided in any desired arrangement, such as in intervals 39 (Fig. 15) along the perimeter 36 or interior of the perimeter 36, such as in an interior area 44 (Fig. 16) of the cover 30. As illustrated in Fig. 16, a plurality of interior weight-receiving areas or pockets 48 may be provided within the perimeter 36 of the material 32 in order to weight a central portion ~~30b~~ 32b (Fig. 2) of the cover 30 as shown. Alternatively, a single interior weight-receiving area or pocket 50 (Figs. 17A and 17B) may be formed using a second layer 33 of material 32 that is welded to surface 32e. The pocket 50 being dimensioned to receive the weight 40 as shown.

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] As illustrated in Figs. 18A and 18B, the cover 30 may further be provided with a plurality of elongated weight-receiving areas 52 extending across a top surface ~~30e~~ 32e of cover 30 or between two points on the perimeter 36. The areas 52 may be arranged in a starburst configuration, with each area 52 receiving the weight 40.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] Thus, it should be appreciated that one feature of the invention is to provide at least one or a plurality of weight-receiving areas 38, 48, 50, 52 or a combination of weight-receiving areas 38, 48, 50, 52 of any desired shape, size or pattern. The areas 38, 48, 50 and 52 may extend continuously or in intervals and can be formed and shaped with desired dimensions or configurations in arcuate or curved segments or even in an endless configuration, such as is illustrated in the covers shown in Figs. 2, 17A and 17B. Thus, although the weight-receiving areas 38, 48, 50, and 52 has have been shown as arcuate or elongated, it they could be any desired shape, such as a triangle or circle, as illustrated by the area 50 shown in Figs. 17A and 17B. It has been found that the size and configuration of the areas, such as areas 38 in Fig. 3B and 50 in Fig. 17B, will depend upon the size and amount of weight that is desired to be provided in the cover 30, which in turn, will depend upon the application and location where the cover 30 will be used. The selection of the shape and size of the weight-receiving areas has been made possible by the novel use of industrial sewing and/or heat welding to seal these areas in the flexible material 32. In the embodiment being described, the seal at the areas A in Fig. 3B and B and C in ~~Fig. 2~~ Fig. 17B is provided by industrial sewing. Although the embodiment has been shown using a sewn seal, it should be understood that other means for creating the weight-receiving area may be used, such as by heat welding or RF welding the material 32 or using an adhesive at the areas indicated by arrows A (Fig. 3B), B (~~Fig. 2~~ Fig. 17B) and C.